

Your
Seattle
City Light

Memorandum

DATE : May 12, 1978
TO : Lee Peha
FROM : Pete Henault
SUBJECT : LEAP Suggestion Regarding PCB disposal

The Office of Environmental Affairs does not have the expertise to evaluate the economic feasibility of City Light becoming the sole U.S. disposer of PCBs and therefore can offer limited comments on the suggestion in the attached LEAP memo.

If City Light became the sole disposer, all the PCBs in the nation would have to be shipped to Washington rather than disposing of the PCBs regionally. City Light would have to assume criminal and civil liability for the PCBs. Penalties for spills which can run into millions of dollars and since there are nearly one thousand accidents involving hazardous materials each year transportation of PCBs should be minimized. The environmental damage caused by such a spill could potentially be severe.

As indicated, from an environmental standpoint, PCBs are extremely hazardous and very detrimental when they are exposed to the natural environment. City Light would be assuming a tremendous task to develop such a disposal/power generation system while ensuring that it would not be damaging to the environment. With facilities already developed and the companies that run them adequately staffed, it does not appear on the surface that there is an incentive for City Light to pursue a development of this system unless we were a profit making company.

ML0:ag

Attachment - orig. LEAP Suggestion 548

cc: Henault (3) Sooy
Wiess Coe
O'Neill
File

